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EDITORIAL OPINIONS OF THE LEADING JOURNALS UPON CURRENT TOPICS.

COMPILED EVERY DAY FOR EVENING TELEGRAPH.

Papal Insurrection.

From the Tribune. The closing of all the Protestant places of worship in the city of Rome, by order of the Papal Government, has lately elicited some comment. The fullest account of it which we have yet met with is given in a letter from the Rev. Dr. Prime, the well-known editor of the Observer of this city.

The Roman law strictly prohibits Protestant worship in the city of Rome. The only exception to this restriction is that the Ambassadors of foreign Governments may have divine service celebrated in their own houses. Under this protection, the following Protestant churches, American, and other representatives of foreign Governments have had, for many years, chapels in their own houses.

The British Government has no diplomatic relations with Rome, but the British Protestants have for forty years past been tolerated in holding worship in a hall, finished off as a chapel, just outside the walls, by the Porta del Popolo. The practice, however, has been more tolerant than the law, and the Roman authorities have winked at or overlooked the rather religious assembly for six years two stations of Scotch Presbyterians, which have never been interdicted with until, on December 29, the chaplains were served with an order to remove their remarkable warping from the British Consulate.

BRITISH CONSULATE AT ROME, December 21, 1866. Sir—It is my official duty to inform you that Monsignore Ruffini, Governor of Rome, has just communicated to the British Consulate, in your name, a copy of a circular, which, you must know, are prohibited by the Roman law, and that you have thus placed yourself in the position of a violator of the law, and of a person who is liable to arrest and imprisonment.

But as the Monsignore permits me to give you this notice, I would seriously advise that you at once put an end to your proceedings, and that you visit Monsignore Ruffini at Monte Citorio, and you assure him that you will never again repeat these illegal acts. I hope in this way you may possibly avoid your exile, which is now hanging over you. I am, sir, your obedient servant.

JOHN B. SAVERS, British Consul. "To the Rev. James Lewis." We are not surprised to learn that some countrymen of the author of this remarkable document suspected him of approving the purpose of the Government. All the representations made to the Pope, and the various resolutions of the January 4th Presbyterian stations were closed. Mr. Odo Russell in vain appealed to Cardinal Antonelli. His reference to the liberty granted to the Americans to have a place of worship drew forth the remark that "the Government would attend to that also."

The Probabilities and Prospects of the Impediment Movement.

From the Herald. North and South the public feelings of all parties have entered into the discussion of the probabilities and prospects of the movement initiated in Congress looking to the impeachment and removal of President Johnson. In some quarters it is urged as a good and necessary thing; in some it is considered a mere game of bluff; here it is thought to be very uncertain as to the issue, and there it is set down as fizzling out. Some weak-kneed alarmists denounce it as nothing better than a Pandora's box, full of all sorts of evils and disasters, including a financial convulsion and another civil war; and others think Mr. Johnson will not be pushed to the wall. But all these speculations are mere guesses, based on the simple fact that the Judiciary Committee of the House, charged with the preliminary inquiry into this business, are properly pursuing their labors with closed doors. We presume that this committee will not be prepared to report until the middle of this session, some four weeks hence; but when they do report we expect an indictment of impeachment, and that the House will adopt it, and demand of the Senate a trial of Andrew Johnson for "high crimes and misdemeanors," requiring his removal from office.

This impeachment must be made to the Senate before the 4th of March or before the final adjournment of the present Congress on that day; for otherwise the whole business with the new Congress will have to be commenced again at the beginning. The present House absolutely expires on the 4th of March; but the Senate (one-third of its members only being elected with every new Congress) is a continuous body. It is by no means unlikely that the majority will act upon the subject or its labors will fall to the ground; but the present Senate, having received the indictment from this House, may pass it over to the Senate of the new Congress. This, we conceive, will be the case, and the operations, in regard to the charges against Andrew Johnson, the principal, and a very serious one, will doubtless be the charge of a usurpation on his part of some of those high powers which belong exclusively to Congress. Another charge will very likely be that of infidelity to his oath of office, in failing to see the laws of Congress faithfully executed.

The specifications upon the charge of usurpation may be applied to his policy of reconstruction, without authority in law, and in defiance of the will of Congress, in each of the ten excluded States. Upon this charge the testimony of his Provisional Governors, etc., before the high court of the Senate will be conclusive. The Secretary of State, in this connection, if necessary, would also not be impeached; but as he will be disposed of with the fall of his master, it will suffice to use him in the Senate as State's evidence touching the promulgation, under the President's authority, of certain proclamations, letters, and despatches to the said Southern Provisional Governors, Legislatures, etc., on reconstruction, including certain official papers, recognizing the Rebel States, in defiance of Congress, as duly reinstated in the general Government.

Upon these charges and specifications of usurpation and infidelity the issue will be as conclusive against Mr. Johnson as were the accusations against Charles the First and Louis the Sixteenth. But while these two unfortunate kings lost their heads, Mr. Johnson, like James the Second, expelled for similar offenses of usurpation of the powers of Parliament, will only lose his place. In one respect he will be more fortunate than James; for while he was compelled to end his days as an exile, eating the bread of charity in a foreign land, Mr. Johnson will be restored to his old home among the beautiful mountains of East Tennessee. There, in the cultivation of cabbage and Joseph, he may, like Buchanan, write the history of his decline and fall; or, like John Tyler, devote his leisure to the improvement of peaches and sweet potatoes. His only condemnation will be that of a civil war, and no less than that, Cassin, but never more of office of mine.

All this, expressly ordained in the Constitution, will be perfectly fair, just, and proper, and the country will so accept it. There will be no panic, no civil war, and no fuss about it, except

among the fussy politicians. As for Mr. Johnson's famous fourth of March and twenty-second of February excitement, and his September holiday frolic with Mr. Seward for Chicago, they will go as secondary misdeemeanors. Weighed in the scale against the heavy charge of usurpation, they are mere leather and prunella. The Senate, we hope, will spare General Grant and Admiral Paragut in the matter of testing to the former doing of that Chicago escapade, as Mr. Seward can tell all that is necessary, and more, too, concerning it. With Mr. Johnson's removal General Grant will probably, by law, be at once promoted to his place, and if a special election be ordered in the fall, will unquestionably be chosen by the people to fill up the interval to the 4th of March, 1869. Otherwise, under the existing law, the President of the Senate will be transferred to the White House, subject to the issue of a special Presidential election.

The programme is simple and easy, as provided in the Constitution; and when this small republic the sovereign authority of Congress, the Rebel States will have no alternative but to submit, as other States and peoples have done, through the last five or six thousand years, to the necessities of their situation, and to the issue of a conflict of the sword, choosing. Meantime the pending Constitutional Amendment will soon be duly ratified to make it part of the supreme law of the land; and then, whether the outside States have accepted or rejected it, they must be generally furnished by other communities, not in the shape of money, but of goods sold on credit. The South, by purchasing its goods in this way instead of manufacturing them, was always in the use of capital; and this is generally furnished by other communities, not in the shape of money, but of goods sold on credit. The South, by purchasing its goods in this way instead of manufacturing them, was always in the use of capital; and this is generally furnished by other communities, not in the shape of money, but of goods sold on credit.

Reorganization of the Civil Service—Mr. Jencks' Bill.

The only objection we have seen urged against Mr. Jencks' bill for the reorganization of the civil service is predicated upon the alleged centralizing tendencies of the scheme. "We shall have no more bureaus," it is said, "more consolidation of authority." No objection could be offered less justly applicable to the case. In all that pertains to the appointment of those who are known as "inferior officers," the present system is the *ne plus ultra* of centralization. Practically the whole appointing power is wielded by the Executive, who exercises it arbitrarily, without a pretense of responsibility, and with a habitual indifference to the requirements of the public service, or the qualifications for efficiency of the persons appointed.

There can be no greater centralization than this—none more demoralizing in its influence, or more likely to insure the prostitution of the government patronage to party purposes. The plan proposed for the reorganization will remain in the hands of the Executive, and to this extent, it may be argued, the evil of consolidated authority will continue. But the present temptation to an abuse of the authority will no longer exist, and the Executive will be willing to concede that the thing it properly studies is the only legitimate object of government. Government owes protection, not to the manufacturers merely, but to every class of citizens, and every industry, and every industry bound to protect each and all against injustice and wrong, against the rapacity which would impoverish a part of the community by transferring their earnings or their property without compensation to others. But what in common business is the right of a man to his property? Who is it that asks for protection? Who are the men that all the lobbies and besiege the committees of Congress to clamor for high offices? It is not the people; not anybody deputed by them to express their wishes; but the greedy manufacturers and their well-paid agents.

And what do these comorants ask to be protected against? Is it against oppression by the community? Oh, no! Against injustice? Again no. Against taking away their property to give to other men? Certainly not. What, then? Why, against low prices—they want to be protected against low prices and against nothing else. But to whom are low prices an evil? To the rapacious manufacturers only. To all the rest of the community, they are an advantage and a blessing. The sole object of the species of robbery misnamed protection is to keep up or carry up prices—that is, to prevent all consumers from getting as many goods for the same money as they would if trade were left free.

The manufacturers being confessedly unable to make goods as cheaply as they can be imported, having confessedly gone into unprofitable branches of business, and having impudence to accept the means provided by the Government to reward the bad management of others is called protection? We should prefer to see the laborers of the country protected in their right to the free use of their own property, and against unjust compulsion to pay more than they are worth because a few rich owners of factories would suffer by low prices. The slavery which we have abolished took from the negroes all their earnings beyond a bare subsistence, and gave the surplus to their masters; but the tariff transfers the system to the North, and takes the earnings of the white laborers to give to a few Republican magnates. Down with this odious aristocracy in legislation!

Except within defined limits, the new Board will be powerless. They will be able neither to dismiss nor to appoint. Their jurisdiction will extend no further than the arrangement of the subjects over which the examination for the various grades will range, and the issuing certificates to those who may prove themselves worthy of official employment. The task is not easy, nor the responsibility trifling. But certainly there is nothing in it that should frighten honest advocates of the decentralizing theory. Mr. Herbert Spencer would hardly object to a change intended to purge the Departments from partisanship, and secure the appointment of capable men to the various offices.

The reform is not one that may be effected without hard labor, we are aware, Party virtue has not attained to the standard of sublime self-sacrifice which in ordinary circumstances would be implied by the passage of this measure. Ordinarily, moreover, it would be almost impossible for any party to legislate with a view to the wholesale purification of the civil service system, in a manner that would not incur an imputation of sinister motives. Whatever the purpose it would be charged that the enactment of tests of fitness was simply an excuse for the removal of partisan adversaries. Now, however, the state of political and party affairs is peculiarly favorable to the consideration of the subject on its merits. Removals and appointments on one or the grounds of difference between the President and Congress. The authority of the Capitol itself at issue with the authority of the White House and the Departments on this very subject.

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Passage of the Tariff Bill. From the World (Free Trade). The bill of abominations which has just passed the Senate, the same Tariff bill which passed the House the last session, so altered by multitudinous amendments as to make it, in many particulars, more unjust and oppressive than the original. We hope that the amendments may be concurred in, and that the bill, in its present hideous shape, may become a law. From the now ascertained views of the two Houses, we are certain to have a high and oppressive tariff anyhow, and the best thing to be hoped is that absurdity may so overwhelm itself as to hasten the inevitable, the overwhelming retraction.

Instead of a bill to increase the revenue, it ought to have been entitled a bill to blockade

our own ports. We are practising upon ourselves, in times of peace, what we indicted on the South as the stern application of war. The benefits and benefits of complete protection will go as secondary misdeemeanors. Weighed in the scale against the heavy charge of usurpation, they are mere leather and prunella. The Senate, we hope, will spare General Grant and Admiral Paragut in the matter of testing to the former doing of that Chicago escapade, as Mr. Seward can tell all that is necessary, and more, too, concerning it. With Mr. Johnson's removal General Grant will probably, by law, be at once promoted to his place, and if a special election be ordered in the fall, will unquestionably be chosen by the people to fill up the interval to the 4th of March, 1869. Otherwise, under the existing law, the President of the Senate will be transferred to the White House, subject to the issue of a special Presidential election.

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Had the South manufactured its own goods, it would have lacked this aid and stimulus, and its progress would have been less rapid. The surplus money it could save or borrow it devoted to the construction of railroads, and it was chiefly by the aid of these and a well-developed agriculture that the South was enabled to hold its own against the mightier armies of the North for a single campaign. The rapidity with which it could transfer troops on interior lines, to meet us at every threatened point, multiplied by the absence of immigration, and in spite of a bad labor system, to grow up to prodigious strength.

When the catastrophe at last came, it was chiefly by want of food and the want of the iron of the railroad, that the North, then, that the free-trade policy of the South was wise, even as an element of military strength; and facts have demonstrated that the blockade, which gave that section four years of complete protection to "home industry," was so doing very different from a blessing. And yet our sage legislators at Washington are aiming to blockade our own ports, and distress our own people, by a method whose practical effect must be the same as a great cordon of blockading squadrons, will no longer exist, and the Executive will be willing to concede that the thing it properly studies is the only legitimate object of government. Government owes protection, not to the manufacturers merely, but to every class of citizens, and every industry, and every industry bound to protect each and all against injustice and wrong, against the rapacity which would impoverish a part of the community by transferring their earnings or their property without compensation to others.

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